UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/54/314
S/1999/942
3 September 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 3 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We hereby have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Bishkek Declaration of the Heads of the State of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, signed on 25 August 1999 (see annex).

* A/54/150.

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We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 10, 11, 34, 50, 76, 84, 100, 109, 117, 160 and 161 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Z. ESHMAMBETOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) R. ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

Bishkek Declaration of the Heads of State of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan

The People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Bearing in mind their common aspiration to expand and strengthen multilateral cooperation on the basis of the agreements embodied in the Joint Declaration by the participants in the Almaty Meeting of 3 July 1998, held a summit meeting on 25 August 1999 in the city of Bishkek,

Having considered, in an atmosphere of constructiveness and mutual understanding, a broad range of issues of common interest,

Declare the following:

1. The Parties, noting with satisfaction the progress achieved in cooperation during the period following the Shanghai meeting in 1996, take a positive view of the practical steps taken by the five States, in line with current trends, with a view to strengthening regional security and cooperation. The Parties express their confidence about the prospects of further expanding cooperation in the sphere of security and strengthening multilateral interaction in other spheres.

2. The Parties, on the basis of their conviction that the establishment by the five States of mechanisms for concrete cooperation in spheres of mutual interest is conducive to developing the full potential for multilateral cooperation for the sake of the stability, security, development and prosperity of the region, express their intention to hold meetings of heads of State and Government, without regard for periodicity, and also regular contacts and consultations at various levels, including meetings of ministers for foreign affairs, ministers for defence, and heads of state departments concerned with questions of economic and cultural cooperation.

In this connection, the Parties agreed to exchange proposals, through diplomatic channels, on the dates for holding inter-departmental meetings.

3. The Parties confirm that the agreements on the issues of border settlement, confidence-building in the military field and mutual reduction of armed forces in the border area which have been concluded and ratified by the five States and are documents which are unique in their format and character contribute to strengthening good neighbourliness and friendship, and are making a constructive contribution to ensuring security and stability in the region.

The Parties shall continue to implement these agreements rigorously and provide all necessary assistance to the work of the joint monitoring group.

4. The Parties note the importance of effectively combating international terrorism, illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, arms smuggling, illegal migration and other forms of transborder criminal activity, and manifestations of national separatism and religious extremism, and to this end shall take measures to develop practical cooperation though the competent departments of the five States, including the holding of consultative meetings and the coordination, during 1999-2000, of appropriate joint measures.

The Parties express their resolve to prevent the use of the territories of their States for the organization of activities which are detrimental to the sovereignty, security and public order of any of the five States.

Confirming their commitment to the principle of respect for human rights in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other universal documents in this sphere, the Parties note that in implementing this principle, it is necessary to take into account the specific characteristics of sovereign States. Human rights must not be used as a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of States.

5. The Parties, attaching paramount importance to the preservation of peace and stability in the region, support the efforts of the Central Asian countries to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone and the initiative put forward by the Republic of Kazakhstan for the convening of a conference on cooperation and confidence-building measures in Asia, and also welcome the proposals and concrete actions of other interested States aimed at expanding the multilateral regional dialogue on the strengthening of security and cooperation.

6. The Parties support the ideas of the doctrine of President Askar Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic concerning the revival of "silk route diplomacy" at the contemporary level of international cooperation in the interests of stable economic development and the strengthening of peace and stability in the region.

7. The Parties express deep concern about the continuing military confrontation in Afghanistan, which poses a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

The Parties confirm the central role of the United Nations in international efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Afghan conflict, support the peacekeeping activities of the "5 + 2" group, and welcome the initiative of Kyrgyzstan for the holding of a peace conference on Afghanistan in Bishkek.

8. The Parties, noting with satisfaction that, as a result of the implementation of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan, signed in June 1997, the peace process in Tajikistan has become irreversible, stressed the value of the positive experience of the inter-Tajik settlement for the compromise solution of complex problems in a spirit of goodwill, with active peacekeeping support on the part of the international community.

9. The Parties, noting the great significance of trade and economic cooperation on the basis of the principles of equality and mutual advantage, shall continue to encourage its development between the five States on a bilateral basis and at the same time shall intensify the search for ways of developing multilateral cooperation in this sphere, above all in the areas defined in the Almaty Joint Declaration of 1998.

To this end, the Governments of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan shall form joint advisory groups, which shall prepare proposals and recommendations for high-level meetings.

The Parties welcome the participation in cooperation of interested States of the region both at the inter-State level, and at the level of enterprises with various forms of ownership, and also in the sphere of joint activities to attract investment.

10. The Parties draw attention to the significant changes which have taken place in the contemporary international situation and believe it necessary to state that, in the relations between them and in international affairs, they will continue to abide by the following fundamental principles:

- Maintaining mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, equal rights, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and settlement of disagreements and disputes through negotiations and consultations;

- Developing multilateral cooperation on the basis of the principles of equality and mutual advantage;

- Helping to strengthen the role of the United Nations as the basic mechanism in the maintenance of international peace and security and in the peaceful settlement of contemporary international and regional problems, and opposing the use of military force or threat of its use in international relations without the authorization of the Security Council;

- Strictly observing the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and supporting, within the framework of the United Nations and other multilateral forums, the efforts to promote the immediate and unconditional accession of all States to these Treaties.

11. The Parties believe that multi-polarity is the general trend of development in the contemporary world and contributes to the long-term stability of the international situation. The five States are resolved to make tireless efforts for the sake of the protection of peace throughout the world and joint economic development, in order to promote the building of a just and rational new international political and economic order.

12. The Parties confirm that the interaction and cooperation among the five States are open in nature and are not directed against other countries.

(Signed) JIANG Zemin
Chairman, People's Republic of China

(Signed) Nursultan NAZARBAEV
President, Republic of Kazakhstan

(Signed) Askar AKAYEV
President, Kyrgyz Republic

(Signed) Boris YELTSIN
President, Russian Federation

(Signed) Emomali RAKHMONOV
President, Republic of Tajikistan